

# TOWARDS 2020

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## NDP to set the pace for developed nation status

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The New Development Policy (NDP) will maintain the basic strategies of the New Economic Policy of eradicating poverty and restructuring society to correct social and economic imbalances, thereby contributing towards national unity, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said national unity remained the ultimate goal of the NDP because a united society was essential for social and political stability and sustained development.

"The NDP will set the pace to enable Malaysia to become a fully developed nation by the year 2020, not only economically, but also in terms of social justice, moral and ethical values, political sophistication, quality of life and the administrative efficiency of the Government," Dr Mahathir said when tabling a motion on the Second Outline Perspective Plan (OPP2) in the Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Mahathir said although remarkable progress had been made under the NEP, its objectives had not been fully-realised.

There were still wide gaps among the communities, with the bumiputra lagging behind in important fields,

especially in the ownership and management of commercial and business enterprises, and in the professions, he added.

"We must push on with policies designed to reduce further the current disparities among the races in order for national unity to be firmly established," he said.

The OPP2 which outlines the economic development of the country over the next 10 years (1991-2000), embodies the NDP which succeeds the NEP (1970-1990).

The NDP contains several shifts in policy to provide a new dimension to development efforts.

There will be greater emphasis on the eradication of hardcore poverty, while at the same time reducing relative poverty.

In the process of eliminating hard-core poverty, stress will be on education and training before support will be given.

"The candidates must be ready to help themselves and face the realities of a competitive society before they receive support or opportunities," Dr Mahathir said.

He said the Government would continue with its efforts to increase bumiputra ownership and participation in the corporate sector in line with the original objective of achieving at least a 30 per cent stake.

"This, however, will be implemented in a flexible and liberal manner so as not to unduly affect growth. Therefore, under the OPP2, no quantitative targets and no specific timeframe have been set for achieving a quantitative objective," he said. "However, at the end of the year 2000, a review will be made of the policy to support bumiputra participation in the economy."

Dr Mahathir said there would also be focus on the rapid development of an active bumiputra commercial and industrial community to increase and make permanent bumiputra participation in the economy.

## 8-PAGE COLOUR PULLOUT

# All you want to know about the OPP2

## FULL TEXT OF PM'S SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT — 16 to 18

He said the NDP would continue with efforts to increase the bumiputra share in the economy in terms of employment and ownership and control of the economy as current disparities in development among the ethnic groups were still large.

"In continuing with these efforts, the Government realises that it is essential to pay more attention to the qualitative aspects of bumiputra participation as these have been given less emphasis in the past," he said.

He added that "higher quality participation" would enable them to contribute effectively to the development process and make them more self-reliant and less dependent on the Government for support as well as help them retain their share.

Dr Mahathir said bumiputras could not expect economic policies to always favour them.

"Politically split as they are, the day may not be far off when their influence in the Government will diminish and it will no longer be willing to defend and formu-

**Setting the stage for Vision 2020**

**OWNERSHIP OF BUMIPUTRA CAPITAL IN FIRM VALUE OF LISTED COMPANIES, 1999**  
(% of total)

The pullout page contains a detailed report on the ownership of Bumiputra capital in listed companies in 1999. It includes a line graph showing an upward trend in ownership percentage over time. A portrait of a woman, likely a government official, is featured on the right side of the page. The text discusses the government's efforts to increase Bumiputra participation in the economy and the challenges faced in the process.

late policies to help them," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the NDP would involve the private sector more in the restructuring process as well as emphasise human resources development which include the moral and ethical aspects.

In the efforts to eradicate poverty and restructure society, Dr Mahathir said, there would be less need for extensive government intervention.

"Instead, there will be a more selective approach which takes into account the need for quality and sustainable result," he added.

The NDP had taken into account the progress that had been made under the NEP and the strengths and weaknesses of development efforts, Dr Mahathir said, adding that there were also many areas of weaknesses which should be remedied.

He said that while maintaining the basic strategies of the NEP, the NDP aimed to bring about a more balanced development.